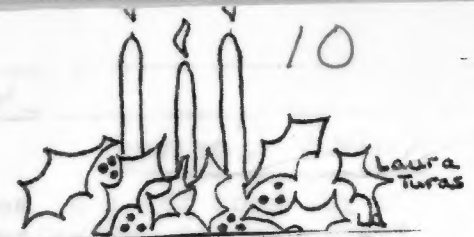


# The Middle School Good Times



Vol. 4 # 3 154 Paw Paw Middle School

Dec. 7, 1977

## ORDER YEARBOOK by MONDAY!

The Wappaw Jr., the Middle School yearbook, went on sale last Friday at all lunch hours for \$3.50. The book itself won't be available until May but orders must be placed now to enable the staff to plan and budget accordingly. Student council fund-raising pen and pencil sales began this week in an effort to help offset the real cost of the yearbook which might otherwise run about \$5.00- \$6.00.

The yearbook staff has been meeting on Thursdays and Mondays after school to organize the 48-page hard-covered volume.

The cover contest, which closed Friday after school, was most successful in producing several excellent cover designs. Selecting one best was a difficult task. The winner of the contest, in addition to having his/her design on the cover will also win a free yearbook and a \$5.00 Hiatt House certificate. Tammy DeValle drew the winning design; order a yearbook to see the drawing. Thank-yous are extended to all who entered. Anyone interested in helping with the artwork in the yearbook is invited to join the staff on either night or both.

Deadline for ordering a yearbook is Dec. 12, Monday.

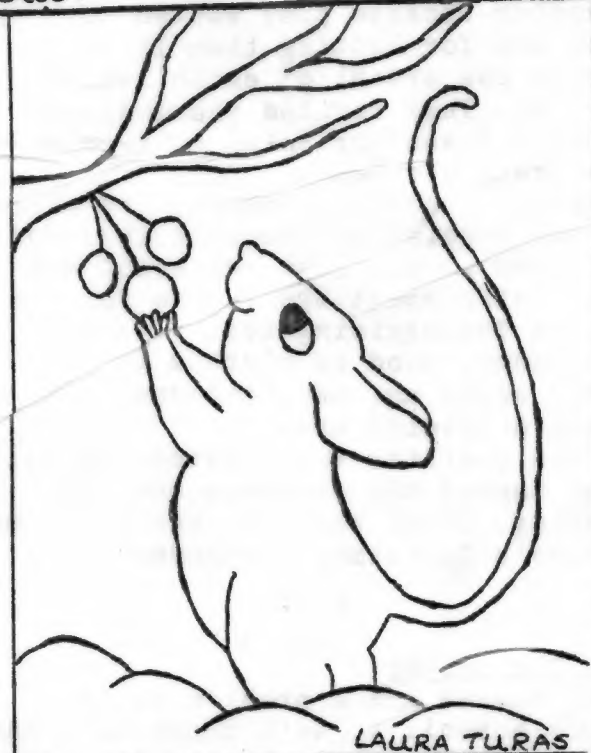
## CHRISTMAS CONCERT PLANNED

Practice has been under way for the Christmas concert to be presented by Mrs. Herm and interested students. A solo will be sung by Lori KruiZenga accompanied by flute and piano. Some of the music to be sung will be "Do you hear what I hear?", "White Christmas" in commemoration of Bing Crosby, "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer", "Jingle Bells", and "Sleep Oh Sleep". The parent assembly is planned for December 7, ours is Dec. 20.

## Student Council Reports...

Student Council has just begun. Discussion has included some suggestions such as a snack bar which was rejected

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as unworkable. We talked about dances without deciding on an exact date for the first one although this month was the plan for that dance. The cost would be around \$1.00. Hopefully there will be three more dances after the first one.

Fund-raising committees chose to sell pens and pencils to help the yearbook and raise money for student council functions. Last year student council was able to help purchase the cool water drinking fountains installed on each floor. M. Serbenski

## ESSAY CONTEST - 8th Graders

The eighth graders are involved in a contest where they compete against other eighth graders around the state in an essay contest sponsored by Farm Bureau. The top prize is \$500 savings bond, second prize is \$250, third, fourth, and fifth prizes are \$100, and sixth through tenth prizes are \$50 each.

Winners will be announced from each school and then the 1st place winner in each school will have his/her essay entered in the statewide competition

(Continued p. 3)

Kyle's Corner

Do you know the real meaning of Thanksgiving? Pilgrims 368 years ago celebrated on the third Thursday of November because they wanted to thank God for letting them live through the ordeal of establishing a colony. They invited the Indians to their feast for helping them move into their new land.

Now days people, I think, are missing the whole point of Thanksgiving. You see, some people just eat a lot and don't think about the reason for the day. On Thanksgiving next year send some money, food or clothes to a worthy cause and make someone's Thanksgiving a special one.

This pertains to Christmas as well. Think beyond the presents and the feasting. Think what you can do to make someone's Christmas a happier one.

K.C.

To the editor:

Bus passes are a problem at the middle school. I don't think it's fair for people who want to stay for activities after school and need to ride the late bus home, to be turned down for a bus pass. People who stay after for detentions and ride the late bus home get a bus pass no matter what, almost. If they're after school for a detention, then they're there for punishment. They should walk home themselves or if they can't, their parents should come and get them. They're there for punishment so they shouldn't be able to ride the late bus home. (often that way their parents don't know they had to stay for detention.) They just take the privilege of using bus passes away from those who would like to join activities after school and need a bus pass. Also high schoolers can get on the late bus without any pass at all. No fair!

Signed-

no pass for the bus

THE Good Times Advisor

Dear Good Times Advisor,

I'm an eighth grader who is in seven different after-school activities. I can't be committed to them all. What do I do?

Busy & Bewildered

Good Times Advice — continued

Dear B & B,

I would suggest that you stay involved in only the ones you like most.

Dear Good Times Advisor,

What can the students do about getting results about the bus passes?

Quite puzzled

Dear W.P.,

I would think you should tell your parents. They may get results. Also tell student council.

LAUGH and the world laughs with you.

Laughter is a way of showing either you think something is funny or it happens when you are happy and you just feel like showing your attitude at that time.

Without laughter everyone would surely be lacking in happiness.

Laughter is one of the reflexes that no one themselves really knows exactly when he/she started and it is a part of you for the rest of your life.

K.C.

Interview with a Reindeer

Reindeer are a kind of animal that live in the northern countries. They're the only type of deer which both females and males have antlers. In their wild state, reindeer are called caribou.

I got a chance to meet one of these fascinating animals up in Alaska. And the first question I asked was "Is it true that the boy reindeer have 'uncles' and the girl reindeer have 'antlers'?"

The reindeer replied "yes, it's true. During the fall and winter, but during the spring and summer they're used as hat racks."

What do you do when the temperature gets below freezing, say 70 below zero?"

"Some of us run to keep warm and some of us fly south for the season."

Then of course, I had to ask what everybody would like to know for sure, "Do you really fly at Christmas time with toys for all the boys and girls?"

He replied, "Confidentially, there's just eight of us that make the trip."

Well, there you have it, right from the reindeer's mouth.

L. Turas

for the prize money mentioned.

The topic for the contest, which opened Oct. 17 and deadline Nov. 10, was "My solution to an American problem." Winners for individual schools will be announced in mid-January with state winners announced in March.

The name of the contest in "America and ME". Mrs. Pfister, Mr. Ruesink, and Ms. Ruggles together sent in 40 of the best essays from the eighth grade.

C. Erickson

## Thanksgiving Assembly

Remember what happened Nov. 23? A duet by Jayne Whittington and Donna Rook, another by Jolinda Jach and Cindy Carpenter, an 8th grade guitar folk song session, a skit by the 7th grade, "Danger Everywhere", and many songs presented by both 7th and 8th graders- in an assembly the day before Thanksgiving 6th hour.

Songs performed under the direction of Mrs. Herm included numbers such as "You Light Up My Life", "Grandmother's Feather Bed", and "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy."

K.M.

## Book Week Winners

Book Week, Nov. 14- 18, the library held a drawing a day for a paperback book. If you wanted to enter you had to give Mrs. Barrett a picture of yourself. The first winner was Brenda Wrona, second day Lonny Wheatley won, Lori Fisk won on Wednesday and Tim Dixon won Thursday of that week. The final winner was Karen French."

R.G.

## After School Art Activity

An art class is meeting at the middle school every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00 until 4:30. If you like to do sculpturing, weaving, and lots of other fun things then you should be in the art class run by people from Western Michigan University.

Asked for her opinion, Ms. Lundquist said she is really "amazed with the progress of the art class."

When the class is over, you should be an artist!

Rhonda Barker

## Faculty Spotlight

This week Ed McKee and Carl Erickson interviewed Mr. Edinger, 8th grade history teacher. Mr. Edinger has taught for ten years. The subject he enjoys teaching the most is U.S. History.

He has one child, Benjamin who is 2 1/2 years old. His favorite food is shrimp, his favorite male singer is John Denver and his favorite female singer is Helen Reddy.

Mash is Mr. Edinger's favorite tv show. In response to what his zodiac sign is he replies "Who cares? That's nonsense."

The Labrador Retriever is his favorite animal. Shirley McLaine is his favorite actress and Paul Newman is his favorite actor.

Mr. Edinger is 33.

## Further Faculty Spotlight -

Mindy Racette interviewed Mrs. Kovach, 6th grade English teacher.

She received her teaching degree at Western Michigan University and thought that if she hadn't become a teacher, she would have gone into nursing.

Mrs. Kovach is married and has six children. She has been teaching five years. She enjoys reading, sewing, and crafts and has a bell collection. She says she doesn't have a favorite food and her favorite color is blue.

She enjoys all music. Her favorite singer is Perry Como and she enjoys watching basketball, football, and summer sports. Her favorite shows on tv are 60 Minutes and All in the Family.

Mrs. Kovach's zodiac sign is Gemini.

## SLOTH - What is it?

The sloth is an unusual animal who can be found in South America. Sloths have barely any tail or ears. Their hair is rough and long. They eat leaves and young twigs.

They move upside-down on branches. You might ask what keeps them up there? You have guessed it- their hooklike claws! Do you believe they sleep like this?

Two types of sloth exist, the two-toed and the three-toed types.

Diane Zalewski

## Wrestling Season Starts

Wrestling is open to the 7th and 8th graders. Wrestling meets at 4 at the High school. Students must have a current physical to participate.

Wrestling is one of the oldest sports and one of the most natural. Matches are divided into three periods, one and a half minutes each. Wrestlers win by either points or pinning them down.

There are 15 weight classes from 66 pounds on up to 167 pounds. There's an unlimited class above that.

C.E.

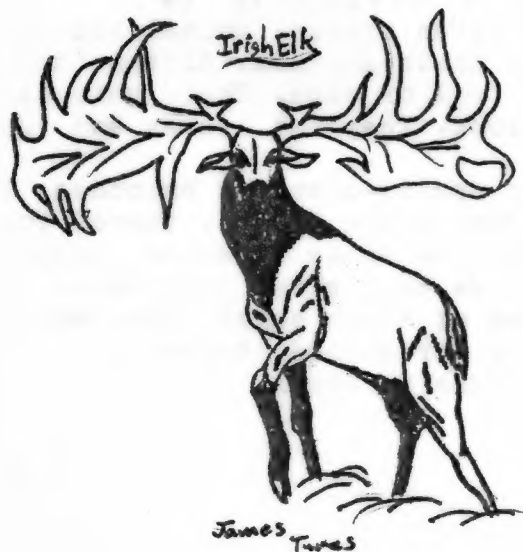
## Recipe Corner

## No Cook Mint Patties

- 4 T. margarine  
 1/3 c. light corn syrup  
 3 t. peppermint extract  
 1/2 t. salt  
 4 & 3/4 c. sugar (about 1 lb.) powdered  
 1 drop each red and green food coloring  
 Thoroughly blend butter, corn syrup, extract, and salt in large mixing bowl.

Add sugar; mix with spoon and hands til blended smooth.

Divide mixture into thirds; knead red food coloring into one portion of mixture and green food coloring into another. Leave one portion white. Shape in round balls about size of a walnut. Flatten with fork on waxed paper. Dry for several hours. Makes about six dozen. Store in tightly-covered bowl or tin. J. Terrill



## Who is Mel Brooks? - FIND OUT.

Mel Brooks - a flipped-out lunatic or the most popular comedian in the world? On June 29, 1926, Mel Brooks entered this great (ha ha) world, and grew up in Brooklyn finding life right from the start rather tough. He had no father and was the baby out of four boys.

When he was 14, he had his first chance to act. He played a district attorney in a play called Uncle Harry. He was so nervous he dropped a glass of ice water into the audience sending shards of glass and ice water everywhere. He ripped off his old man costume and yelled "Okay, I'm sorry. But I'm only fourteen years old!"

In the following years he played a circuit. (These, he said, were the most miserable years of his life.) In the fifties, he wrote for Your Show of Shows, starring Sid Caesar and then later on, for the Caesar Hour; both were a tremendous success.

In the sixties he created Get Smart, with the bungling secret agent, Max Smart. His first film, The Producer, for an all right rating but it won the '68 Oscar for Best Screenplay.

Since then he has written The Twelve Chairs, Blazing Saddles, Young Frankenstein and Silent Movie.

by C. Vandenberg

Dec. 4	Dec. 5	Dec. 6	Dec. 7	Dec. 8	Dec. 9	Dec. 10
Change Socks	Kiss Someone's boyfriend or girlfriend	Be Bored	Feed Pet Piranha	Purchase squirt gun to shoot nephew	Shoot nephew (w/ squirt gun!)	Break big brother's fingers
Dec 11 Be Bored	Take biennial shower	Clean out Ears -	Have dinner with Mondale	National Dum-Dum Day - Mark Mark's president	Sleep	Clean Room (w/ ant's shovel)
Dec 12 Make bed for first time ever.	Be nice to brother ↓	Sleep	Be bored	Christmas shop - on 1. 18?	Take out garbage from room cleaning.	Scrape plaque off teeth.
Dec 25 Merry Christmas!	Photo of a skeleton	Nag Brother ←	Change bird cage - first time since June.	Give pet worm to sister for late Christmas gift.	Find new home for pet worm. (and self!)	Change socks - again

## NUTTY DECEMBER CALENDAR

HAVE A Good New Year!

Only 17 Shopping Days 'til Christmas

## THE GOOD TIMERS



HAPPY  
Holidays!

Editor - Kyle Caldwell  
 News editors - Diane Zalewski, Kim McDowell,  
 Mindy Racette, Pam Woodhams, Rhonda Barker  
 Feature editors- Laura Turas, Jill Terrill,  
 John Pugsley, Mark Serbenski,  
 Sports- Ed McKee, Carl Erickson, Kurt Lucas  
 Reporters- Nita Ricketson, Debbie Haefner,  
 Jane Giuzio, Patty Ross, Shawn Thompson, Don  
 Soven, Teresa Quick, Craig Vandenberg,  
 Art work- James Turas, Laura Turas

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## If YOU Could Change the Middle School....

The opinion poll taken this month by the Good Timers asked the question "If you could change one thing about the middle school, what would you change and why or how?"

Shawn Thompson suggested "repainting the rooms in bright yellows and blues."

Joanne Hughes said "I would change the marking period from six weeks to nine. The way I would do this would be to get a lot of people to come with me to tell everybody else and then tell the principal."

John Mihelich would change "the playground because when you play sports, you get hurt on the gravel. They should put cement on the playground."

Pam Barich suggests "more time to take showers." while Jenny Taylor would like to see "escalators installed." Laurie Dietz thinks "we need bigger lockers and a bigger spot to do cheers. It should be grassy."

Bobby Humphrey would also like to see the playground changed. "It should have grass not rocks. There are not enough things to do out there."

Continued in the 2nd col.

## WORD FIND

C H R I S T M A S  
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 A N G E L S O S G

- Merry Christmas!
1. Christmas
  2. Comet
  3. Reindeer
  4. sleigh
  5. toys
  6. apple pies
  7. wreath
  8. angels
  9. seven (reindeer)
  10. happy
  11. dancer
  12. pie
  13. merry
  14. snow

## Continued - OPINIONS

Pat Hope remarked "I don't like all the rocks on the playground. Someone could get hurt. Another thing that should be changed is once you go outside you can't come back in at lunch. They also should fix the lockers."

Jayne Towle and Beggy Burchard said "modernize the building."

Debbie Terrell and Laura Turas would like "the new windows up, like the ones that are in Ms. Ruggles' room."

Mr. Ruesink suggested "changing the rooms while Mr. Lutz remarked "get rid of the rumdums."

Nancy Livingston would "leave out gym." Jodie Lugar would "change the length of classes. Some that you don't really need could be shorter while the ones you'll benefit from could be a bit longer."

Mark Nolen would like "more time between classes."

Laura Turas would "start school earlier so people could get out earlier in May when it's sometimes hot and you can go swimming."

Dave Meconi would like "better lunches." Raise the prices so we could get better food.

Kris Bowser would build a "school with a swimming pool and tennis court."

Barb Hande says "so-called hot lunch would be better if we bought food and served it"

Chuck Muvrin would like "food from Ponderosa." Howard Capone would like "vending machines." Jim Cox would like a "study hall." John Pugsley suggests "stopping people from destroying things in the halls like papers or posters. You should have kids you can trust to be school police."

Linda Sirrine would like to see "the school make more cheese sandwiches and peanut butter brownies." Laura Bare would like to change gym "because you have to run laps." Paul Keenan also has some suggestions for gym. "Kids," says Paul, "no matter what grade or age should be able to participate in anything, any sport. I would change it so any girl or boy could join anything in the middle school."

Tom Garland thinks "we should get more time to study and do homework in class." Both Jeri and Joe Whitworth would like to see the "lunches improve." Kyle Caldwell would change the "heat. Ask Mr. Brill if he could ask someone to fix it." Darrell Sager would change some of his teachers "because half of them are slave drivers. I would also have student council run more things." Kim McDowell, Lori Kruizenga and Pam Woodhams would like "a study hall."